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THE AMATEUR LAPIDARY

(Continued from page 25)

etched with acid, thus removing the polish, a clear pattern was obtained. Calcite was used.

"A former pupil of mine, Mr. Bernard Vonnegut now a teaching Fellow at Mass. Inst. of Technology, suggested to me recently that an electron diffraction pattern similarly produced, might give even more conclusive evidence as its penetration would be less. I believe that the latter method will reveal the presence of an adsorbed layer of gas on a solid surface. Now, will someone with the proper apparatus and technique please try the experiment with electrons?"

LATER NOTE

Dr. Wade writes: "Quoting a paper by R. C. French in **Nature**, Jan.

30.h, 1932 to the effect that an electron diffraction study of the surface of a polished metal showed that the copper atoms must have been **flowed into a random arrangement** different from their orderly positions in the cubic lattice, etc."

This note while interesting does not of course constitute any evidence that there is an atomic flow in the polish of a gem. It has long been thought, and is probably rather generally accepted that the burnishing of metal does involve such a flow. However the note is of especial value in that it indicates that the test method proposed is workable and practical.

And now, to quote Dr. Wade again, "Will someone with the proper apparatus and technique please try the experiment with electrons?"